

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. How do April 1 grain stocks compare with last year?
2. Do farmers plan to increase their crop acreage this year?
3. Was hatchery production during March above or below last year?
4. How many gallons of milk were produced on N. C. farms in 1949?
5. What was the total gross farm income from dairy products last year?
6. What changes occurred in feed prices during the past month?
7. Discuss N. C. prices received index.
8. How do prices received by U.S. farmers compare with parity prices?
9. Compare N. C. And U.S. Index numbers.
10. Review meat animal production for 1949.

No. 60

1.941

RALEIGH. N. C.

MAY 5, 1950

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT

APRIL 1 GRAIN STOCKS LARGE

Stocks of corn held in off farm positions in North Carolina amounted to 774,000 bushels on April 1, 1950 or 316,000 bushels more than total off farm stocks on the same date a year earlier. Holdings of corn in all positions, both on and off farms, totaled 33,818,000 bushels on April 1. 1950 compared with 31,117,000 bushels a year earlier.

For the Nation nearly 2,014 million bushels were in storage in all positions on April 1, or almost 9 percent more than holdings of 1,855 million bushels on April 1, 1949. These stocks are the largest for April 1 in the 8 years of comparable record.

Stocks of wheat in all positions in North Carolina as of April 1, this year, amounted to 1,171,000 bushels of which 477,000 bushels were in off farm positions. Current stocks in all positions are slightly above those of a year earlier when stocks amounted to 1, 121,000 bushels. For the United States nearly 663 million bushels of wheat were in all storage positions on April 1, 1950, comparing with nearly 586 million bushels in 1949 and 480 million bushels in 1948 on the same date.

In North Carolina, stocks of oats in all positions totaled 2,028,-000 bushels on April 1, 1950. This total was comprised of 141,000 bush-This els in off farm positions and 1,887,-000 bushels held on farms. Last year's April 1 stocks in all positions in the state were 1,028,000 bushels. National oats stocks of almost 523 million bushels in all positions were about 14 percent below total stocks as of April 1, 1949.

Combined totals of on farm and off farm stocks of barley in the state as of April 1, this year, amounted to 168,000 bushels, of which 153,000 bushels were on farms. On the same date in 1949, stocks in all positions totaled 156,000 bushels. Total barley stocks in the Nation on April 1, 1950, at 135 million bushels, compared with 162 million bushels a year earlier.

Rye stocks in all positions all (Continued on Page 4)

FARMERS INTEND TO INCREASE PLANTED ACREAGE THIS YEAR

Acreage planted to crops this spring again will be relatively large according to reports received from farmers all over the United States.

The reports reveal that on March farmers planned to put about 277.9 million acres into 17 spring-sown crops, including hay, compared with 274. 2 million acres in 1949. However, the gain over last year is more than offset by the large decline in the acreage in winter wheat seeded last fall.

Compared with the spring of 1949, farmer's plans indicated declines for corn, spring wheat, peanuts, dry beans, rice, potatoes, tobacco, flax, and dry peas.

Increases are planned for oats, barley, soybeans, sorghums, hay, suggar beets, sweetpotatoes, and cow-

Farmers' reports of the springsowing plans plus allowances for crops for which no information is now available indicate that principal crops planted or grown in 1950 may total nearly 359 million acres.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION UP 39 PERCENT

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced at a record rate during March. The total output of 7, 316,000 chicks was 39 percent more than the 5,259,000 produced during February, 9 percent above March 1949 and 16 percent above the five-year 1944-48 average.

Demand for chicks was very strong, both for laying flock replacements and for commercial broiler production. Hatchings and placements in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas hit a record high during the

Production of chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina to taled 16,013,000 for the first three months of 1950. This was an increase of 8.5 percent over the 14,758,000 produced during the first three months of last year.

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the United States during March was about the same as in March last year. Output during March was estimated at 265,092,000 chicks compared with 263,667,000 last year and 259,440,000 the 1944-48 average.

NUMBER OF BEEF CATTLE INCREASING IN NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH CAPOLINA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 4 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by farmers at local markets increased from 225 as of March 15 to 229 as of April 15. The index of 229 as of April 15 is 19 points lower than the index on April 15, 1949 and 41 points lower than the same index on April 15, 1948 (see table below).

The increase of 4 points in "All Farm Products" index resulted from those commodities which increased in price more than offsetting those which decreased in price.

The grains commodity index increased 7 points due to increased prices for corn, wheat, oats and rye (see table below). Barley decreased 5 cents per bushel and was the only grain to decrease during the month.

The cotton and cottonseed commodity index increased 4 points during the month due to an increase of half cent per pound for cotton and \$1.00 per ton increase in the price of cottonseed.

The meat animals index decreased 3 points during the month ending April 15. The decrease in this index was was the result of a decrease of 40 cents per hundredweight for hogs and veal calves and a decrease of 20 cents per hundredweight in the price of sheep. Prices of beef cattle and lambs remained the same as March 15.

The poultry commodity index decreased 3 points as a result of slightly lower prices for both chickens and eggs.

The decrease of 3 points in the dairy products index resulting from a decrease of 15 cents in wholesale milk prices and a decrease of one cent per pound in butter and butterfat prices.

The miscellaneous products index increased 5 points during the month due to slightly higher prices received for soybeans, cowpeas, peanuts and commercial apples Potatoes at \$1.65 per bushel remained the same and sweetpotatoes decreased 5 cents per bushel.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers increased 1 point during the month ending April 15.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS APRIL 15, 1950 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT-	NORTH CA	U. S.		
	ONTT	MAR. 15 1950	APR. 15 1950	APR. 15 1950	
		- DOLLARS «			
CORN	Bu.	1.23	1.32	1. 26	
WHEAT	Bu.	2.10	2.16	2.01	
OATS	Bu,	.92	.97	. 749	
BARLEY	BU.	1. 23	1.18	1.11	
RYE	Bu.	1.90	2.00	1.20	
SOY BEANS	BU.	1.96	2.10	2.48	
COWPEAS	Bu.	3.90	4.15	3.73	
PEANUTS	LB.	. 114	. 118	. 106	
COTTON	LB. Ton	44, 50	. 295 45.50	. 287	
WOOL	LB.	. 49	45.50	44.40	
Hogs	CWT.	15,40	15.00	15.60	
BEEF CATTLE	CWT.	17.40	17.40	21.80	
VEAL CALVES	CWT.	23.40	23.00	24.60	
SHEEP	CWT.	10.00	10.20	11.10	
LAMBS.	CWT.	21.60	21.60	23.80	
MILK COWS	HEAD	135.00	134.00	187.00	
CHICKENS	LB.	. 274	. 265	. 233	
EGGS	Doz.	. 328	. 325	. 308	
MILK, WHLSE	CWT.	4.80	4.65 a/	3.60 a	
RETAIL	QT.	. 196	. 196	.180	
BUTTER	LB.	. 53	. 52	. 563	
BUTTERFAT	LB.	. 53	. 52	.610	
HAY, ALL BALED	TON	28.20 b/	27.70 6/	21.40 b	
POTATOES	Bu.	1.65	1.65	1.34	
SWEET POTATOES	Bu.	2.35	2.30	2.28	
APPLES COMMERCIAL	BU.	2.25	2.40	2.10	
LESPEDEZA SEED	CWT.	8.10	7.90	7.32	
KOREAN	CWT.	6.00	7.60	8.42	
KOBE	CWT.	9.90	13.50	14.30	
COM. & TENN. 76.	CWT.	17.00	17.00		
SERICEA	CWT.	18.00	26.50	24.90	

a. Preliminary

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS (N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	MAR. 15 1950	APR.15 1950	APR. 15 1949	APR.15 1948	APR.15 1947	
	NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS COTTON & COTTONSEED GRAINS	225 224 168 322 190 220	229 228 17 5 319 187 217	248 249 180 345 223 228	270 28 4 223 354 218 237	261 275 220 333 208 221	
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID - Q	90	91	101	108	114	
		UNITED ST	ATES INDEX	NUMBERS		
PRICES RECEIVED	237	241	260	291	276	
PRICES FAID INTEREST & TAXES	2 50	251	246	249	230	
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID.	95	96	106	117	121	

a. Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 4 POINTS

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers rose 4 points during the month and in mid-April reached 241 percent of the January 1910-December 1914 average. The Index on April 15 was almost back to its October 1949 level, but 6 percent below April a year ago.

During the same period the Parity Index rose one point from the March level to 251, the highest since the 252 of June 1949. The rise in the Parity Index resulted chiefly from higher prices for production items, notably feed and feeder livestock. Prices for items bought for family living averaged about the same as a month ago, and the seasonally adjusted index of wage rates was down 2 points to 427.

As a consequence of the greater increase in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers, the Parity Ratio advanced from 95 to 96 during the month.

Higher average prices were the rule for most commodity groups sold by farmers this month, important exceptions being the Dairy Products and the Poultry and Eggs groups both of which were down about seasonally. Most noteworthy changes for individual commodities were: soybeans up 23 cents a bushel, corn 7 cents, and wheat 3 cents. Among the meat animals, beef cattle were up 80 cents and calves 20 cents per hundredweight. On the down side, hogs were off 50 cents.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

	AN	D PARI	TY PRIC	ES		
COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF_PARITY	
	MAR. 15 1950	APR.15 1950	MAR. 15 1950		Mar.15 1950	APR.15 1950
	DOLLARS				PERCE	NI-
COTTON LB WHEAT BU CORN BU DATS BU BARLEY BU RYE, BU BEEF CATTLE, CWT. HOGS CWT. LAMBS CWT. CHICKENS LB. EGGS DOZ. MILK, WHLSE CWT.			1.57 b/ .925b/c	2.16 1.57 / .925c 1.43c/ 1.67c/ 17.00 18.90 18.80 .286	76 b/ 78 b/ 77 124 86 127 84 72 b/	80 81 128 83 127 81

Preliminary

The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds, including an allowance for minor kinds.

Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.
Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION UP - INCOME DOWN

Cattle and Calves: Production of cattle and calves in N. C. during 1949 is estimated at slightly over 116 million pounds. This is the third consecutive year that net production has shown an increase. Gross income, including value of home consumption and cash receipts from sales dropped from about 23 million dollars in 1948 to 18 million in 1949. The average price of cattle declined from the record high of \$18.00 per hundred pounds in 1948 to \$16.90 in 1949 while the price of calves decreased only slightly from the 1948 record of \$23.00.

Hogs: During 1949 net production of hogs in N. C. totaled about 308 million pounds. This compares with the previous year's production of nearly 297 million pounds and is the highest yearly production since 1944. Gross income at 60 million dollars declined sharply for the year and compares with the record high of almost 71 million in 1948.

Sheep and Lambs: Production of sheep and lambs in the state during 1949 was about 1.5 million pounds. This compares with 1.6 million pounds produced in 1948 and 1.4 million in 1947.

In the United States, farm production from meat animals in 1949 amounted to 41.1 billion pounds, 7 percent above the 1948 production of 38.5 billion pounds. The 1949 production was the first increase in the past 6 years, although still 5.5 billion pounds less than the record of 46.6 billion pounds in 1943. Production of cattle and calves at 19.4 billion pounds was the second largest on record, while that for hogs at 20.4 billion pounds was the fourth largest. Sheep and lamb production in 1949 was again reduced and at 1.3 billion pounds was the smallest since 1923. The 1949 total production from all meat animals was 6 percent above the 1938-47 average.

Gross income (cash receipts plus value of home consumption) for the Nation from meat animals amounted to 8.9 billion dollars in 1949, one billion less than in 1948. Gross income from cattle and calves in 1949 at 4.9 billion dollars was 429 million dollars less than the record of 5.3 billion set in 1948, however, 2.4 billion higher than the 10-year average. For hogs, gross income in 1949 amounted to 3.7 billion dollars, 651 million dollars or 15 percent less than in 1948 and 21 percent less than the record 4.6 billion dollars in 1947.

INCREASED PRICES PAID FOR MOST FEEDS

Prices of most high protein and grain by-products feeds increased from 5 to 15 cents per hundredweight during the month ending April 15.

Bran, middlings and cottonseed meal increased 10° cents per hundredweight. Laying mash and scratch grain each increased 5 cents per hundredweight. Corn meal increased from \$3.75 to \$3.90 per hundredweight. Meat scrap decreased 10 cents per hundredweight.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS APRIL 15, 1950 WITH COMPARISONS

5550 050	NORTH C	AROLINA	UNITED STATES		
FEED PER	MAR. 15	APR. 15	MAR. 15	APR. 15	
HUNDRED WEIGHT	1950	1950	1950	1950	
	<u>DOLLARS</u>				
BRAN	3. 20	3.30	2.86	3.00	
	3. 35	3.45	3.00	3.16	
	3. 75	3.90	3.21	3.31	
	3. 40	3.50	3.74	3.85	
16% PROTEIN 18% PROTEIN 20% PROTEIN LAYING MASH SCRATCH GRAIN MEAT SCRAP	3.30	3.35	3.41	3.46	
	3.50	3.50	3.61	3.65	
	3.75	3.70	3.68	3.73	
	4.60	4.65	4.34	4.41	
	4.00	4.05	3.77	3.87	
	6.10	6.00	6.15	6.18	

FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME FROM MEAT ANIMALS IN NORTH CAROLINA 1948-1949 (Estimates in Thousands)

CATTLE AND CALVES	1948	1949
ON HAND JAN. 1 (TOTAL NUMBERS)	419 314	6 57 413 330 5
CATTLE	163	b/ 86 138
CATTLE	7 9	6 7
CATTLE. CALVES. NET PRODUCTION (POUNDS). OUTSHIPMENTS & LOCAL SLAUGHTER (LBS.)	18 23 c/108.370 b/113.350	20 25 c/116.460 b/ 93.010
CATTLE. CALVES. CASH RECEIPTS FROM SALES (DOLLARS). VALUE OF HOME CONSUMPTION (DOLLARS). COST OF INSHIPMENTS (DOLLARS).	23.00 d/ 22.730 424 23.154	16.90 22.70 d/ 17.860 340 18.200 714
HOGS		
ON HAND JAN. 1 (TOTAL NUMBER)	. 1,191	1,167
SPRING CROP (NUMBER): SOWS FARROWED	127 800	138 897
FALL CROP: Sows FARROWEDPIGS SAVEDINSHIPMENTS	689	110 715 6
LOCAL SLAUGHTER FARM SLAUGHTER DEATH LOSS (TOTAL) NET PRODUCTION (POUNDS) OUTSHIPMENTS & LOCAL SLAUGHTER (LBS.) PRICE PER 100 LBS. (DOLLARS) CASH RECEIPTS FROM SALES (DOLLARS) VALUE OF HOGS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION (DOL) GROSS INCOME (DOLLARS) COST OF INSHIPMENTS (DOLLARS)	b/ 506 800 208 c/296.947 b/108.262 22.70	b/ 675 750 240 c/308.260 b/140.375 18.40 d/ 33.418 26.593 60.011
SHEEP AND LAMBS	27	
ON HAND JAN. (TOTAL NUMBER)	29	35 28
SHEEP. LAMBS FARM SLAUGHTER:	16	14
SHEEPLAMBSDEATHS:	1 2	1 2
SHEEP	c/ 1.617 b/ 1.607	c/ 1.531 b/ 1.126
PRICE PER 100 POUNDS: (DOLLARS) SHEEP	9.70 23.00 a/ 352 18	8.40 24.00 d/ 2.94 18 312

Preliminary.
Excludes interfarm sales.
Adjustments made for inshipments and changes in inventory
Adjustments made from marketings and from sales of farm
Includes receipts from marketings and from sales of

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in '49 amounted to 27.5 billion dollars -- 10 percent less than in '48.

New construction started in January set a record for the month.

With farmers paying higher prices for family living and maintenance in '49 than in '47, the 2-year drop in net income was 25 percent -- when measured in terms of of what the income would buy.

Farmers intentions on February 1 were to buy an average of 12 percent fewer baby chicks for flock replacement in '50 than in '49.

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FARM REPORT

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FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME FROM MILK IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1948-49

		1	
ITEM	UNIT	19 48 a/	19 49
PRODUCTION OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS: NUMBER OF MILK COWS ON FARMS \$\(\) PRODUCTION PER COW - MILK C/	No. LBS. % LBS. LBS. LBS. LBS.	355,000 4,330 195 4,5 1,537,000,000 69,000,000 430,000,000 22,500,000	359,000 4,510 203 4,5 1,619,000,000 73,000,000 424,000,000 22,200,000
DISPOSITION OF MILK PRODUCED: MILK FED OR USED ON PRODUCING FARM: TOTAL	LBS. LBS. LBS. LBS. LBS.	884,000,000 31,000,000 494,000,000 359,000,000 653,000,000	899,000,000 32,000,000 511,000,000 356,000,000 720,000,000
FOR DELIVERIES TO PLANTS AND DEALERS: AS CREAM	LBS. LBS.	71,000,000 22,000,000 460,000,000 100,000,000	68,000,000 25,000,000 532,000,000 95,000,000
FARM BUTTER SOLD. PRICE PER POUND. VALUE OF SALES. CREAM SOLD TO PLANTS AND DEALERS. PRICE PER POUND BUTTERFAT. VALUE OF SALES.	LBS. CENTS DOL. LBS. CENTS DOL.	3,700,000 59 2,183,000 910,000 62 564,000	3,550,000 55 1,952,000 1,040,000 55 572,000
WHOLESALÉ MILK SOLD TO PLANTS AND DEALERS PRICE PER 100 LBS VALUE OF SALES MILK AND CREAM RETAILED BY FARMERS PRICE PER QUART VALUE OF SALES COMBINED SALES OF BUTTER, CREAM AND MILK	LBS. DOL. DOL. QT. CENTS DOL.	460,000,000 5.51 25,346,000 47,000,000 20.2 9,494,000	532,000,000 4.80 25,536,000 44,000,000 20.2 8,888,000
MILK UTILIZED	LBS. DOL. CENTS DOL. DOL.	653,000,000 5.76 128 37,587,000 49,133,000 86,720,000	720,000,000 5,13 114 36,948,000 44,477,000 81,425,000

Revised
Average number on farms during year, heifers that have not freshened excluded.
Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms.
Approximations based chiefly on population in small towns and rural areas where
most families purchase their milk from local farmers.
Computed from the value of milk, cream and farm butter sold divided by the
quantity of milk or butterfat used in the preparation of these products for
market.
Milk and milk equivalent of cream and farm butter consumed, valued at the average
return for milk utilized in dairy products sold.
Value of combined sales, plus value of products consumed in the farm household.

APRIL 1 GRAIN STOCKS (Continued)

positions on April 1, 1950 amounted to 13,000 bushels in North Carolina. Only 1,000 bushels of this total were in off farm positions. Stocks in all positions a year earlier totaled

20,000 bushels. April 1 stocks in all positions in the Nation were slightly over 13 million bushels this year as compared with about 10 million bushels last year.

1949 MILK PRODUCTION UP

Milk production on farms in North Carolina during 1949 totaled 1,619 million pounds or 10.5 percent more than production in 1948. However, in spite of this increase in total production, both cash income and gross income (cash sales plus value of products consumed on the farm and in the farm household) were less than in 1948. The principal cause of lower income from milk in 1949 was declines in prices to producers for milk. Milk sold to plants and dealers at the wholesale level accounts for about 74 percent of milk sold. As the price received for wholesale milk dropped from \$5.51 in 1948 to \$4.80 per 100 pounds in 1949 - a 13 percent decline, total cash income from wholesale milk showed very little change from 1948 in spite of a 12 percent increase in quantity sold as wholesale.

The price of milk and cream retailed by farmers at 20.2 cents per quart was the same as in 1948. Income from retail sales, however. was lower than in 1948 due to a 6 percent decline in quantity sold at retail.

Income from butter sold declined about 11 percent due both to a slight decrease in volume sold and price received. Income from cream was up about 10 percent due to an increase in quantity sold more than offsetting a decline in price.

One favorable aspect of the increase in milk production in 1949 is shown in a better than 10 percent increase in household consumption of milk and cream on farms where produced. Of course, the value of this must be figured at an average market price that was ll percent below that of 1948. Therefore, the total gross farm income from dairy products at \$81,425,000 was about 6 percent less than in 1948.